



Inspection Report

Nick Sculac
Big Cats Of Serenity Springs
24615 Scott Road
Calhan, CO 80808

Customer ID: **7673**
Certificate: **84-C-0069**
Site: 001
NICK SCULAC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: Dec-09-2015

2.40 (b) (2) REPEAT DIRECT NCI

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

**An adult female tiger in enclosure #2, Buffy, was noted to be squinting and excessively blinking her eyes in the sunlight before moving to pace the fence. Buffy has opaque coloration to the cornea of both eyes with the left eye appearing completely white. The other female tiger in this enclosure, Spangles, also has an opaque and cloudy appearance to both eyes, the left eye being more noticeably affected. Spangles was observed excessively blinking and squinting her eyes in the sunlight. Both of these tigers had been cited for this condition and the enclosure was cited for inadequate shade during the previous inspection conducted on 9/9/2015. This condition has been documented that it is considered chronic in nature by the attending veterinarian (AV). A note made by a veterinarian on Buffy's medical record on 9/9/2015 stated "Bilateral, chronic, progressive, solar induced keratitis. It was going to continue to worsen". A note made by a veterinarian in Buffy's and Spangle's medical records on 11/2/2015 stated "Solar Induced keratitis is the same". There is no plan to address the progressive deterioration of the vision, pain, or discomfort due to the diagnosed condition.

Eye conditions, particularly chronic conditions that become more active, are serious, often painful to the animal, and, if not treated quickly, may result in loss of vision. These tigers need to be re-evaluated by a veterinarian to provide a plan for treating and/or monitoring this condition.

**A male tiger in enclosure #32, Waldo, had an abnormal gait affecting his right front leg, which was cited during the inspection on 9/9/2015. When walking, his head bobs downward noticeably when landing hard on his left front leg. He would stretch out the right front leg gently before walking at times not putting full weight on that leg. Waldo's pelvic bones were becoming prominent and were easily visible. Invoices from a veterinarian dated 3/4/2014 and 4/19/2015 list digital radiographs of right elbow and right front leg for Waldo but these were not made available for review. A note made by attending veterinarian in Waldo's medical records on 11/ 17/2015 that it was a chronic limp and non-responsive to pain medications. "Plan was to provide glucosamine/chondroitin, can restart tramadol/meloxicam if limp worsens for more than 48 hours". There were no records available during this inspection showing that this animal is receiving glucosamine/chondroitin, no plan to monitor, and no plan to re-evaluate or attempt any other diagnostics or treatment for this animal despite no change in this abnormal condition

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Lameness and/or abnormal gait with muscle or weight loss may be indications of injury or underlying illness and this tiger needs to be evaluated by a veterinarian to provide a plan for diagnostics, treating and/or monitoring these conditions.

**A male tiger in enclosure # 65, Toni has an abnormal gait affecting his right front leg, which was cited on the inspection conducted 9/9/2015. When walking, his head bobs downward when placing his left front leg and does not appear to bearing his full weight. A note was made by a veterinarian on Toni 's medical record 11/2/2015 "no improvement in RF lameness on Tramadol". A note made by the attending veterinarian on 11/17/2015 was that it was a chronic limp, plan to provide glucosamine/chondroitin supplement. If limp worsen for more than 48 hrs restart tramadol/meloxicam . There were no records available during this inspection showing that this animal is receiving glucosamine/chondroitin, no plan to monitor, and no plan to re-evaluate or attempt any other diagnostics or treatment for this animal despite no change in this abnormal condition.

Lameness and/or abnormal gait with muscle or weight loss may be indications of injury or underlying illness and this tiger needs to be evaluated by a veterinarian to provide a plan for diagnostics, treating and/or monitoring these conditions.

**An adult male lion in enclosure # 28, Zazu was observed to have an abnormal stance and appeared to be hunched on his hind quarter. Below the hock it appeared to be at an abnormal angle. He was very reluctant to walk inside the enclosure. Zazu also has an opaque coloration to the center of the left eye which a note by a veterinarian on 11/2/2015,"eye looks good." No diagnosis, treatment or plan available during the time of inspection to address these medical issues.

Eye conditions, particularly chronic conditions that become more active, are serious, often painful to the animal, and, if not treated quickly, may result in loss of vision. Lameness and/or abnormal stance with reluctance to walk may be indications of injury or underlying illness. This lion needs to be evaluated by a veterinarian to properly diagnose the cause and provide a plan for treating and/or monitoring these conditions.

**An adult black leopard in enclosure #61, Sinbad, was noted to have two large lumps protruding from the left hip and left lateral thigh with a third faintly noticeable on his right mid-lateral thigh. This condition was cited during the inspection on 9/9/2015. The veterinarian that was on site during the inspection conducted on 9/9/2015 recommended no treatment at that time, but to monitor them daily for change. A note made by a veterinarian on Sinbad's medical record 11/2/2015 animals needs to be darted, verify they are lipomas. There has been no documentation that these lumps have been monitored and/or treated. Sinbad also appeared to have an abnormal gait by walking lightly and not bearing his full weight on the right side. This condition had not been noticed by the facility staff at the time of this inspection.

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**Three juvenile bears in enclosure # 8, Rachey, Xena and Koda have significant hair loss along the rump. Koda appeared to have bi-lateral hair loss on the hindquarters extending forward to the mid-back area. Rachey and Xena have hair loss on the hindquarters and thinning hair coat over the lower back. In addition, all three bears were seen to be excessively scratching their flank and abdomens during the time the inspectors observed them. The AV had not been notified of these animals condition at the time of inspection. The facility had changed the bedding, as it was assumed to be an allergic reaction, however the condition remains unchanged.

Areas of hair loss and pruritus may be symptoms of nutritional deficiencies, internal organ dysfunction, allergies, external parasites, and/or many other veterinary conditions. These animals need to be evaluated by a veterinarian to determine a diagnosis and plan for this condition.

In addition to the adult tigers Buffy, Spangles, Waldo, Toni, Andy and the adult leopard, Sinbad, the following animals listed on the previous inspection conducted September 9, 2015 were evaluated by a veterinarian: Binturong- Chip, Tiger cub Joey, adult tiger-Capricho, Adult Leopard-Aramis, and 2 coatimundi -Molly and Macano.

3.81

REPEAT

ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENT TO PROMOTE PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING.

- The plan for the environmental enhancement to promote the psychological well-being of the nonhuman primates, 2 ring-tailed lemurs acquired in July 2014, was not available for review at the time of this inspection. The plan, at a minimum, must address social grouping, environmental enrichment, special considerations, if applicable, and restraint devices and their use. The plan and environmental enrichment must be approved by the attending veterinarian (AV) and documented when provided to the animals on the environmental enhancement plan.

There was nothing documenting (i.e notebook, calendar) that enrichment is taking place. The animals have different items in their enclosures, but there is no schedule of rotating or changing the items in the pens.

Nonhuman primates have complex social and intellectual needs that need to be addressed when in captivity. A written plan that is directed by the AV, guided by current professional standards, and available for review by APHIS officials is required to ensure that the psychological well-being of these animals is being appropriately addressed.

Must develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan for environmental enhancement of nonhuman primates that is in accordance with currently accepted professional standards and as directed by the AV.

3.125

(a)

REPEAT

FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Enclosure #36 housing 2 black bears, Cody and Pebbles, has a large hole in the wooden shelter structure on the upper right side. This shelter is in disrepair and the hole can allow wind and rain to enter the

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structure which could cause discomfort to these animals.

In the following enclosures, the doorframe around the den (shelter) had chewed and ripped wood which are in disrepair and which could cause an injury to the animals:

**Enclosure # 11 housing 2 adult tigers, Charlie and Chainsaw

**Enclosure # 12 housing 2 adult tigers, Seth and Gabrielle

**Enclosure # 23 housing 2 adult tigers, Tutt and Nefertiti

**Enclosure # 24 housing 2 adult tigers, Shenandoah and Sabre

Enclosure # 24 housing 2 tigers, Shenandoah and Sabre, the chain link fencing on the west side of the enclosure adjacent to the den is pulled and is not in good repair, posing a risk of injury to the animals.

Enclosure #5 housing 2 tigers, Opie and Lyla the ramp and elevated resting platform has chewed, ripped wood in disrepair and could cause an injury to the animals.

The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The indoor and outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

3.125 (c) REPEAT FACILITIES, GENERAL.

Storage.

When the door was opened to the main food preparation area (commissary) a very foul odor of rotting meat could be smelled by the inspectors. Inside this area there were multiple packages of raw chicken, fish and meat in approximately 25-30 large cardboard boxes that were past the expiration dates (Dec 6, 2015 noted on some packages). Facility staff stated that the meat had been delivered on 12/8/2015.. All of this meat was being stored at room temperature since it was delivered and most of the meat was thawed and warm to the touch.

Food that is past the expiration dates on the manufacturer's packaging and which is not stored under proper conditions (eg. refrigeration for raw meat products) deteriorates quickly and may become contaminated with high levels of bacterial pathogens which are a risk to the health of the animals being fed this improperly stored food.

Supplies of food and bedding shall be stored in facilities which adequately protect such supplies against deterioration, molding, or contamination by vermin. Refrigeration and appropriate storage shall be provided for supplies of perishable food.

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3.126 (a)

FACILITIES, INDOOR.

The indoor enclosure # 52 housing for 3 five month old tigers, Lakota, Joey and Khaleesi is not being sufficiently regulated for extreme temperature changes. The inspector opened the side door to the indoor enclosure and felt a rush of cold air. The enclosure has two baseboard heaters that are not being utilized. These heaters are presently being urinated on and poses a health/fire hazard to the animals. The floor in the indoor enclosure is made of concrete and the only area for the animals to stay warm is by burrowing into the wood shavings on the elevated bed. Facility staff stated that they leave the window open even during the night allowing cold air to enter. These lower temperatures could cause undue stress and discomfort to these young tigers.

The licensee needs to sufficiently regulate extremes of temperature by heating or cooling the indoor housing facilities to protect the health of the animal and to prevent discomfort.

To be corrected by: December 16, 2015

3.127 (a)

REPEAT

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Several outdoor enclosures housing tigers, lions, tigers, bears, and ligers did not have adequate shade to protect them from direct sunlight:

- *Enclosure #42 housing 5 adult tigers: Terra, Jamma, Milo, Morgan and LaFluer
- *Enclosure # 43 housing 3 adult tigers: Lazarus, Diablo, and Twinkle
- *Enclosure #44 housing 2 adult tigers: Clay and Ima
- *Enclosure #45 housing 2 young tigers: Baxter and Maverick
- *Enclosure #46 housing 2 adult tigers: Kasper and Kodiak
- *Enclosure #47 housing 2 adult tigers: Elijah and Jezebel
- *Enclosure #48 housing 1 adult lions: Mona
- *Enclosure #30 housing 1 adult liger: Shakira
- *Enclosure #31 housing 2 juvenile lions: Athena and Zeus
- *Enclosure #32 housing 3 juvenile tigers: Synder (aka Cinder) and Waldo
- *Enclosure #33 housing 1 adult tiger: Willy
- *Enclosure #29 housing 3 adult tigers: Billy, Jake, Chepe
- *Enclosure #28 housing 1 adult lion: Zazu
- *Enclosure #27 housing 2 juvenile tigers: Pancho and Montana
- *Enclosure #26 housing 1 adult tiger: Andy
- *Enclosure #25 housing 2 adult tigers: Zena and Zoey
- *Enclosure #24 housing 2 adult tigers: Shenandoah and Sabre
- *Enclosure #23 housing 2 adult tigers: Tutt and Nefertiti
- *Enclosure #22 housing 1 adult tiger: Pandora
- *Enclosure #21 housing 3 adult tigers: India, Capricio, and Carolina
- *Enclosure #19 housing 2 adult tigers: Sumadi and Eragon
- *Enclosure #65 housing 2 adult tigers: Phoebe and Toni
- *Enclosure #64 housing 2 adult tigers: Natasha and Juanita

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*Enclosure #63 housing 2 adult tigers: Amber and Thurston
*Enclosure #62 housing 1 adult liger: Fergy
*Enclosure #60 housing 2 adult lions: Savanna and Pharaoh
*Enclosure #54 housing 3 adult tigers: Raja, Varekai, and Kanji
*Enclosure #59 housing 5 adult tigers: Shival, Mugale, Bana Bibi, Rani, Sultan
*Enclosure #13 housing 2 juvenile tigers: Roman and Donner
*Enclosure #12 housing 2 adult tigers: Seth and Gabrielle
*Enclosure #11 housing 2 adult tigers: Charlie and Chainsaw
*Enclosure #10 housing 2 adult tigers: Cleatus and Charlie
*Enclosure #55 housing 1 adult tiger: Shir Khan
*Enclosure #56 housing 2 adult tigers: Charaka and Priya
*Enclosure #58 housing 2 juvenile tigers: Bentley and Achilles
*Enclosure #57 housing 1 adult tiger: Stripes
*Enclosure (not numbered) housing 2 black bears, Holly and Lolli, and 1 brown bear, Huggy

Two tigers and one lion were noted to have abnormal conditions affecting their eyes. Several animals were observed laying in the restricted shadow of shade available to them in their enclosures.

Inadequate protection from direct sunlight has the potential to cause eye damage and may affect an animal's ability to thermoregulate without the ability to access shade. In addition, inadequate shade may restrict the animals from utilizing the full enclosure space.

Shelter from sunlight is required when overheating or discomfort of the animals is likely.

3.127 (b) REPEAT FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

Shelter from inclement weather.

The shelter structure in the outdoor enclosure #35 housing an adult leopard, Selbit, is not adequate to protect this animal from the local area's climatic conditions (eg. rain, wind, snow, hail). This enclosure previously housed bobcats, a much smaller animal than an adult leopard, and the shelter structure entrance is too small for a leopard to enter this structure or to have adequate room to make normal postural adjustments if able to gain access.

Animals housed outdoors should have appropriate shelter, natural or artificial, where they can escape adverse climatic conditions and stay warm and dry.

Natural or artificial shelter appropriate to the local climatic conditions for the species concerned shall be provided for all animals kept outdoors to afford them protection and to prevent discomfort to such animals.

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3.127 (c)

FACILITIES, OUTDOOR.

An adult male tiger in enclosure # 55, Shirkahn has slabs of ice and standing water under and around the water bowl. This area is not adequately draining and does not allow the animal to stand on a dry surface while drinking.

Two adult tigers in enclosure # 56, Charaka, Priya has excess an excess amount of ice, water, mud under and around the water bowl. This area is not adequately draining and does not allow the animals to stand on a dry surface while drinking.

An adult tiger in enclosure #57, Stripes has excess an amount of standing water, mud under and around the water bowl. This area is not adequately draining and does not allow the animals to stand on a dry surface while drinking.

The excess accumulation of standing water, ice, mud could be a source for contamination, odors and diseases. Establish and maintain an effective drainage system to eliminate excess water to prevent potential contamination and diseases.

To be corrected by: December 23, 2015

3.129 (a)

REPEAT

FEEDING.

According to the diet plan observed by the inspectors, it calls for "Added calcium supplement for cubs". The plan lists two calcium supplements to be given, Prima Cal 2 scoops of supplement per pound of meat and Calcium Citrate 4 scoops of supplement per pound of meat. Only Prima Cal was found during the inspection and the facility staff stated that was all they were using. Lameness and joint swelling in young, growing cubs may be caused by inadequate calcium in the diet and can lead to serious injury and health consequences (i.e fractured bones).

The licensee should ensure that the calcium supplementations are being given as directed by the AV.

The food shall be wholesome, palatable, and free from contamination and the diet shall be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal.

3.130

REPEAT

WATERING.

In enclosure #36 for two black bears, Cody and Pebbles, the horse trough provided for the bears' enrichment and for cooling themselves had a small amount of brown liquid mixed with dirt and debris.

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The bears were observed licking the brown liquid and climbing inside the trough. Consumption of the dirty brown liquid with debris poses a risk to the animals' due to bacterial contamination. An employee was called to remove this trough from the enclosure.

In enclosure # 24 for two tigers, Shanandoah and Sabre, is one small water receptacle with no water for the animals. Facility staff stated at one time they did have a large water receptacle, but it got torn up. An employee was called to provide water to these animals.

Animals not provided with adequate potable drinking water are at risk for dehydration and overheating. If other types of water receptacles are provided to animals, these and all drinking water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary in order to minimize contamination by bacteria, algae, and other potentially toxic or infectious materials.

If potable water is not accessible to the animals at all times, it must be provided as often as necessary for the health and comfort of the animal and all water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary.

3.131 (d) REPEAT SANITATION.

In enclosure #36 housing 2 bears, Cody and Pebbles is an excessive accumulation of bird droppings on and around the food receptacle, southwest side of the fence and a tree stump.

These pests may carry and transmit diseases to the animals and a more effective method of monitoring and preventing their presence in/around primary enclosures and food should be implemented.

The licensee shall establish and maintain a safe and an effective pest control program.

3.132 REPEAT EMPLOYEES.

The licensee is not regularly involved in the day to day care of the animals and facilities. Facility staff stated that they have 2 employees that live on site and another employee has not seen and unsure of his status. The employees who are living on site have not been adequately trained for emergency situations. This was evidenced by them being unable to explain the emergency protocol for an escaped animal. The facility recently acquired 11 more animals making the current total of 127 animals including 12 species. These species have complex medical, behavioral, nutritional, and other husbandry needs. Conditions at the facility currently do not meet the professional level of husbandry practices described in the regulations and standards. For example, in the last 16 months, 9 tigers, 1 lion, 1 bobcat, 1 leopard, and 2 kinkajous were found dead. During this inspection, 7 tigers, 2 lions and 1 leopards were identified with veterinary care problems that were not receiving appropriate care. Young animals (2 tiger cubs, 1 lion) at the facility were being hand raised and require around the clock specialized care and feeding. A total of 37

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enclosures, affecting 76 animals, had no shade . This has been an ongoing problem that has been cited since May 2009. At least 8 enclosures were in varying degrees of disrepair that was cited on 9/9/2015 inspection. The excessive number of animal welfare concerns indicates that there is not a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain a professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices and in emergency procedures.

Facilities are required to utilize a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain the professional husbandry standards described in the regulations and standards to ensure that the animals are kept in appropriately maintained, sanitary facilities and receive appropriate monitoring, veterinary care, feeding, watering, and care.

The licensee must evaluate the current work load and staffing level and ensure that a sufficient number of adequately trained employees are utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices described in the regulations and standards.

A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart.

Inspection conducted on 12/9/2015 with a facility representative, AC Supervisory Animal Care Specialist, Tanya Tims, DVM and Animal Care Inspector Cindy Rhodes.

Due to the unavailability of the licensee to conduct the exit briefing in person, it was conducted by telephone on 12/14/2015 with the licensee and AC Inspector Cindy Rhodes. The exit briefing included a detailed description of the animals requiring veterinary care.

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